

CARRIZOZO OUTLOOK

Published Weekly in the Interest of Carrizozo, and Lincoln County

VOL. IX, NO. II

CARRIZOZO, LINCOLN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1915.

PRICE \$1.50 PER YEAR

WHAT ABOUT THOSE SIDE WALKS?

MORTGAGE TAXATION VEXING THE PEOPLE

Many Believe Law Should be Revised to Conform to Principle That One Shall Not Pay Tax on Debts

HARD TO LAY DOWN RULE WITH DOGMATIC CERTAINTY

The taxation of mortgages is worrying the people in other states as well as in New Mexico. Some of the legislatures now holding forth in other states are attempting to wrestle with the subject, but it is not receiving a great deal of attention in New Mexico at this time, other than from those who hold these evidences of indebtedness. And they are not altogether satisfied with the taxing statutes of these instruments now prevailing here. But, with the supreme court having construed the statutes on the subject back in 1902 John R. McFie, then a justice of the supreme court, and with the attorney general of the state this year giving it as his opinion that mortgages should be taxed as all personal property, it is not likely that the holders of these securities can expect any relief from the hard hearted tax assessor. Many are of the opinion that the mortgage tax laws should be revised to conform with the principle that no man should be taxed upon his debts; and that if mortgages are taxed then the property representing the security for them should not be taxed full valuation. This is an ancient and troublesome question. The Outlook believes that the New Mexico law as it stands—and the same law exists in most other states—exact a double taxation for that part of the real estate which is encumbered by mortgages, because it not only taxes the property itself but the holder of the mortgage as well. It would hardly be safe to down with dogmatic certainty any rule which has to do with this subject. About the only thing that may be said with safety is that double taxation is indefensible and unjust.

In order to make the proposition plain, let us assume a hypothetical case: Mr. Brown, a farmer, owns land and improvements worth \$5000. On this land he has placed a mortgage for \$2000 on which he pays interest. Mr. Smith holds this mortgage as a lien upon the Brown farm for \$2000 cash advanced to Brown. Now the theory of many lawmakers is that Smith who holds the mortgage should be taxed upon \$2000; yet it is plain that Smith for the time-being in reality owns two-fifths of the Brown farm and therefore should merely pay two-fifths of the taxes levied against that farm. In many instances this would represent quite a substantial difference between a tax on \$2000 and a tax upon two-fifths of the levy against the farm. On the other side of the proposition we find this state of things: By executing a mortgage for \$2000 against his farm, Brown has relinquished just that much of his title to it until such a time

as the mortgage shall be paid off. In justice to Brown, therefore he should not be required to pay all of the tax against his farm, but only three-fifths of it. But Brown has received and enjoys the benefit of \$2000 which he has received from Smith, so that he is in reality just as well off financially as he was before. Smith therefore is in duty bound to make some sort of an accounting to the tax assessor for this \$2000. If the money is spent in improving the farm, then we find that the property instead of being worth the original \$5000 is now worth \$7000. If Smith, the holder of the mortgage, is called upon to pay two-fifths of this new valuation, he is paying more taxes than he should. If Brown takes the \$2000 and buys himself an automobile then he himself should pay the tax upon the amount of this investment. As the case now stands, under the law Smith pays taxes on \$2000 and Brown upon the full value of his farm, and thus we have \$2000 taxed twice.

So, this problem of taxing mortgages is not as simple as it appears. The mortgage is merely a lien, just as a lumber bill or a wage bill would be. The lumber company does not pay a tax upon the claim for lumber, though it is just as much a lien upon the farm as the mortgage.

And there you are

CRYSTAL THEATRE

"I could get cheaper pictures but I won't."

"I would get better pictures but I can't."

These were the remarks made to the Outlook editor this week by Geo J. Dingwall, the proprietor of the Crystal Theatre.

Since this popular house of amusement opened its doors to the public some time last summer, it has been giving performances three times each week, and the pictures shown there would give credit to any town or city in the entire Southwest, or any place else, as for that matter, as Mr. Dingwall uses the best film service obtainable.

On Wednesday night of this week one of the films shown was the life of Abraham Lincoln from a rail splitter to president of the United States which was quite an interesting picture, and one of the best produced pictures ever shown in Carrizozo.

The part of Mr. Lincoln was played by Mr. Francis Ford who appears in the Universal films. Mr. Ford is one of the best actors before the camera today, and is appearing quite often in the films shown at the Crystal.

Mr. Dingwall promises the public a special feature tomorrow evening. Don't fail to see it.

PLENTY OF MOISTURE

The rains and snow of the past few weeks have put a smile on the faces of our farmers and stockmen and a bumper crop year is now assured.

The abundance of moisture at this season of the year will put the ground in fine shape for spring plowing and planting, and also insures a good crop of early grass.

Get wise and make your land valuable by joining back to the farm movement. The darkest hour is just before day and that hour for this country has just passed. We believe that a new day is dawning for New Mexico and that the hardships endured by the old timer is a thing of the past.

The oldest inhabitants of this county assert that there is more moisture in the ground at this time than has been at any previous time. It should make us all smile. It means more prosperity.

WILL OF ED. R. BALL PROBATED THIS WEEK

J. M. Cravens Appointed Executor, While Ernest Mathews and W. M. Reilly Will Appraise the Property

FRITZ ESTATE DISTRIBUTES \$800 AMONG THE HEIRS

The regular March term of the Probate court convened at the court house in this place last Monday, but owing to the lateness of the hour, adjournment was taken to Tuesday after Judge Lucero arrived opened the court and appointed W. S. Brady interpreter.

On Tuesday morning, the court opened at the office of the county clerk, A. H. Harvey, who was present in his official capacity, as was Sheriff Chavez.

In the matter of Chris Warren incapacitated for handling his own affairs, Leopoldo Pacheco was appointed guardian and his bond of \$2500 was filed and approved by the court.

The last Will and Testament of Rott Fauvet has been closed in accordance with the law and in a very satisfactory manner to all concerned. The case was heard Tuesday morning before Judge D. Lucero and was disposed of in a very short time after it was introduced in court. H. S. Hanner was the principal beneficiary and also the executor of the estate, and experienced no difficulties in winding up the affairs of this estate.

Hilario Perez was appointed the guardian of the minor children Demetria and Felix Perez.

The court considered the last will and testament of Edmund R. Ball, heretofore filed and after due consideration J. M. Cravens was appointed executor of the estate of the decedent and Ernest Mathews and W. M. Reilly were appointed appraisers of the estate.

In the matter of the estate of Willie Fritz, deceased, J. M. Penfield, through O. T. Nye, filed his report which was approved by the court. This report showed sufficient funds in the hands of the administrator to enable the court to enter an order distributing \$800 among the heirs of the deceased.

George Spence, as guardian of George Manuel May, a minor, filed his final report, which was duly approved by the court.

The matter of the appointment of an administrator of the estate of the late John Cole is for consideration of the court at the present term, but owing to the unavoidable absence of H. B. Hamilton, who is in Las Cruces with the Dona Ana grand jury in his official capacity, Judge Lucero took a recess until such time as Mr. Hamilton can appear before the court in the interest of this estate. This will no doubt be disposed of Saturday of this week or Monday of the next week.

COUNTY ROAD BOARD TO MEET

There will be a meeting of the Lincoln County Road Board on Monday, March 15, at which time general business will be transacted and bills paid. All bills being presented to the board must be sworn to before a notary public or justice of the peace, and should be mailed to H. B. Dawson, the clerk of the Board, at Carrizozo, to reach him before the meeting, as bills received after the opening of the meeting will not be considered.

J. W. Laws, Chairman.

THEY LEARNED A LESSON

A town in Illinois, about the size of Carrizozo, is advertising for a newspaper and offering a liberal cash bonus for some newspaper man to install a plant and begin the publication of a weekly newspaper.

A few years ago this town had two good papers but the merchants combined to cut down expenses and agreed to stop advertising in the newspapers. They figured that there was just so much business to be acquired and everybody in town knew where each store was located and what each handled for sale therefore advertising was a useless expense. The owners of the papers soon exhausted all means of support and could not secure enough foreign advertising to pay their bills so they closed their shops and left town.

The mail order houses of Chicago heard of the plight of the merchants and placed their catalogs in every home in that town and vicinity. The plea made by the merchants to patronize home industry went no farther than their own store and the town was dead. Now they are offering financial aid to any man who will come to their town and start a paper.

The best way to fight fire is with fire and the best way to fight these mail order houses is advertising in the local newspaper—a privilege denied these outside mercantile stores.

If you have a good newspaper in your town don't begrudge what little you spend for advertising as it will pay you in more ways than one. Don't put the ad in just to secure the editor's business, but write your message in such a way that it will be read and believed by the public. Stand by the prices you advertise and don't tell your customer the printer set it wrong after you have made a sale. Be content with a smaller profit and do a larger volume of business. Keep busy and you won't have time to knock the town and country. Your customer never believes you when you say you are selling goods for less than cost. Tell the truth, advertise, keep busy and the town will appreciate you and the citizens will buy your wares.

RETURNS FROM MARKET

O. W. Bamberger, manager of the Carrizozo Trading Co. returned the last part of last week from the Kansas City, St. Louis and Chicago markets, where he went some few days ago to purchase the spring and summer line of goods for his firm. The Trading Company will this season, have an exceptionally strong line of Millinery, Ladies' and Misses' Suits and Dresses and ready-to-wear of all kinds, as well as a good line of Suits for men and boys. They have added a swell line of Rugs which they have not carried heretofore, and can supply all sizes from the small door way to the large parlor rug. Draperies will also be a new feature with this firm.

SELLING INDIANS

Ed Long, the tinner, has secured the agency for the Indian Motor Cycle Co. and is now prepared to furnish the public with one of the best machines made. The motor cycle is becoming more popular day by day in this country and it will likely not be long until they are as numerous as the little runabout autos. Rev. R. L. Day, pastor of the local Baptist Church, was first to buy a machine from Mr. Long which he will use in making his appointments at different points of the county.

OUR BUSINESS MEN WANT SIDEWALKS

Favor Plan of The Outlook to Provide Needed Improvement, and all are Willing to Dig Up Coin

COME THROUGH SMILINGLY WHEN SOLICITOR FINDS YOU

When the present management took charge of The Outlook, it immediately proposed that we make an effort to get some sidewalks in Carrizozo. We were not particularly selfish in our wish for these improvements, as we were not proposing to run sidewalks around our place of business to the exclusion of other portions of the town; but we were imbued with a spirit of public welfare. We proposed that walks be built from Ziegler Brothers store to the post office and from Bell's corner to the court house. These two sections of the up-town district are traveled a great deal every day by our people—that is, every day that they can be traveled. They haven't been traveled much during the past few days except by those whose business compelled them to paddle through the mud, slipping, sliding, sometimes falling, no doubt, saying a few things softly—things that are better said softly. The conditions prevailing for the past week has brought the contention of this paper home to many of our public-spirited citizens. We all see now what a period of muddy weather means—see the great need of sidewalks.

The Outlook man talked with several of our citizens this week and they are in favor of raising sufficient funds by popular subscription to put down these two pieces of sidewalk immediately.

Realizing that without incorporation, which boon The Outlook is in favor of and which we hope to see consummated within the very near future, we must go into our pockets for these needed civic improvements. The Outlook is willing to do all that it can in every way to help the good work along. We believe what we propose now to do can be done for about one hundred dollars, and with the promises of the few business men interviewed this week, we believe that this amount will be quickly raised.

Now is a mighty good time to do the work—the necessary grading and the applying of the cinders. The soil is in good shape for it and as we want these sidewalks now—not next winter—it is expected that the necessary funds will be pledged within a very few days and that the contract for the work will be let.

Contributions in any sum will be acceptable. All we want just now is enough money to build a good cinder walk from the court house to John E. Bell's corner and from Ziegler Brothers store to the post office. When that work is completed, and we get used to walking on a sidewalk for that distance, we will then want more. Then we will get it without a doubt. Carrizozo people have always been public-spirited and ready for anything which added to the town, and we believe they are more so now, if possible, than ever before.

When you are asked to help your share on this proposed pair of sidewalks—give as liberally as possible.